DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by
> another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent
> granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the
> applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section
> 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States
> only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2)
> of such treaty in the English language.

2.   Claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-10, 13-15, 17-21 and 23-24 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yoakum et al., (US Publication No.

2004/0059781), (hereinafter Yoakum).

Regarding claim 1, Yoakum discloses locating a plurality of devices connected to a

fabric [paragraphs 19, lines 2-3, figure 1];

determining whether capability information for a device has already been collected

[paragraphs 18-19, 25 and 29, lines 17-19];

collecting capability information for each device in accordance with said determining

[paragraphs 18-19, 25 and 29, lines 17-19];

updating a capability table with said capability information [paragraphs 21-22, 26, lines

19-26 and figure 1, item 30 and paragraph 71, lines 8-11]; and

configuring each device with fabric information [paragraph 22].

Regarding claim 2, Yoakum discloses said collecting comprises collecting capability

information for a plurality of devices in parallel [paragraph 19].

Regarding claim 4, Yoakum discloses reading a set of capabilities for said device

[paragraph 18];

determining whether there are any reference tables associated with said capabilities

[paragraphs 18 and 23]; and

reading said reference tables [paragraphs 21-23].

Regarding claim 5, Yoakum discloses detecting that all of said capabilities for said

device have been read [paragraphs 18-22];

determining whether said device connects to any other devices [paragraphs 18-22]; and

reading a set of capabilities and associated reference tables for said other devices if

said device connects to said other devices [paragraphs 18-22].

Regarding claim 6, Yoakum discloses said configuring comprises configuring at least

one capability with said fabric information [paragraphs 18-22].

Regarding claim 7, Yoakum discloses detecting that capabilities information has been

read for all devices connected to said fabric [paragraphs 18-22];

creating a connection table for said plurality of devices [paragraphs 18-23]; and

communicating information between said devices using said fabric and said connection

table [paragraphs 18-23].

Regarding claim 9, Yoakum discloses a plurality of devices [paragraphs 19, lines 2-3,

figure 1];

a communications fabric to connect to said plurality of devices, said communications

fabric to communicate information between said devices [paragraph 18];

a fabric management module to connect to said communications fabric, said fabric

management module to discover and configure said devices to communicate said

information using said communications fabric, said fabric management module

comprises a fabric discovery module to locate said plurality of devices connected to said

communications fabric, said fabric discovery module to determine whether capability

information for a device has been collected, to collect a set of capability information for

each device in accordance with said determination, and to configure each device with

fabric information [paragraphs 18-23]; and

a shelf for said plurality of devices, communications fabric, and fabric management

module [figure 7].

Regarding claim 10, Yoakum discloses at least one device comprises a single board

computer [paragraphs 71-72].

Regarding claim 13, Yoakum discloses said fabric management module comprises a

capability database connected to fabric discovery module, said capability database to

store a record for each device [paragraphs 18-22].

Regarding claim 14, Yoakum discloses a plurality of devices;

a communications fabric to connect to said plurality of devices, said communications

fabric to communicate information between said devices [paragraphs 18-19]; and

a fabric management module to connect to said communications fabric, said fabric

management module to discover and configure said devices to communicate said

information using said communications fabric, said fabric management module

comprising a fabric discovery module, said fabric discovery module to determine

whether capability information for a device has been collected, collect a set of capability

information for each device in accordance with said determination and update a

capability table with said capability information [paragraphs 21-23].

Regarding claim 15, Yoakum discloses at least one device comprises a single board

computer [paragraphs 71-72].

Regarding claim 17, Yoakum discloses said fabric management module comprises a

fabric discovery module to locate said plurality of devices connected to said

communications fabric, said fabric discovery module to collect a set of capability

information for each device, and to configure each device with fabric information

[paragraphs 18-22].

Regarding claim 18, Yoakum discloses said fabric management module comprises a
capability database connected to said fabric discovery module, said capability database
to store a record for each device [paragraphs 18-22].

Regarding claim 19, Yoakum discloses said fabric discovery module generates a
connection table for said plurality of devices, with said connection table having a path
between each pair of devices connected to said communications fabric [paragraphs 18-
22].

Regarding claim 20, Yoakum discloses a storage medium [paragraphs 71-72, figure 7];
said storage medium including stored instructions that, when executed by a processor,
are operable to locate a plurality of devices connected to a fabric, determine whether
capability information for a device has been collected, collect capability information for
each device, in accordance with said determination, update a capability table with said
capability information, and configure each device with fabric information [paragraphs 18-
22].

Regarding claim 21, Yoakum discloses the stored instructions, when executed by a
processor, are further operable to collect said capability information for a plurality of
devices in parallel [paragraph 19].

Regarding claim 23, Yoakum discloses the stored instructions, when executed by a

processor, determine that said capability information for said device has not been

collected, and collect said capability information using stored instructions operable to

read a set of capabilities for said device [paragraphs 18-23],

determine whether there are any reference tables associated with said capabilities

[paragraph 18], and

read said reference tables [paragraphs 18 and 23].

Regarding claim 24, Yoakum discloses the stored instructions, when executed by a

processor, are further operable to detect that all of said capabilities for said device have

been read, determine whether said device connects to any other devices, and read a

set of capabilities and associated reference tables for said other devices if said device

connects to said other devices [paragraphs 18 and 23].

Response to Arguments

3.   Applicant's arguments filed 12/02/2008 have been fully considered but they are

not persuasive.

A – Applicant argues "the claimed subject matter discloses 'determining whether

capability information for a device has been collected.' The cited portions of Yoakum

clearly fail to disclose a determination of whether capability information has been collected".

A – Yoakum discloses "The sources monitor normal user interactions and automatically provide corresponding state information to the presence system ..." [Yoakum, paragraph 18], further Yoakum discloses "The server may be configured to monitor the respective devices to determine state changes ..." [Yoakum, paragraph 29, lines 17-19]. In order to determine if there is a state change, an initial state must be known.

B – Applicant argues "Yoakum also clearly fails to teach the collection of information relating to the capability of a device".

B - Yoakum discloses "The sources monitor normal user interactions and automatically provide corresponding state information to the presence system ..." [Yoakum, paragraph 18], further Yoakum discloses "The server may be configured to monitor the respective devices to determine state changes ..." [Yoakum, paragraph 29, lines 17-19]. Additionally, Yoakum discloses "whether any settings on the phone indicate that the user is in or out of the office", "determine whether the phone is on-hook or off-hook, and thus determine whether the user is engaged in a telephone call" [Yoakum, paragraph 25]. Therefore, Yoakum is showing information [on the phone or out of the office, etc] relating to the capability of a device.

C – Applicant argues "Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that 'updating a
capability table with capability information' is not disclosed, suggested, or implied by
Yoakum".

C – Yoakum discloses updating capability information, by knowing the state and
monitoring for changes [Yoakum, paragraphs 18 and 25], and the location is maintained
within the location database [Yoakum, figure 1, item 30, location database, paragraph
26, lines 19-26 and paragraph 71, lines 8-11].

<div align="center">***Conclusion***</div>

4.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time
policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE
MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within
TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not
mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the
shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any
extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of
the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later
than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Examiner's Note: Examiner has cited particular paragraphs / columns and line numbers

in the reference(s) applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant.

Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are

applied to specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures

may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing

responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part

of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the cited passages as taught by the

prior art or relied upon by the examiner.

Should applicant amend the claims of the claimed invention, it is respectfully requested

that applicant clearly indicate the portion(s) of applicant's specification that support the

amended claim language for ascertaining the metes and bounds of applicant's claimed

invention

      Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to WILLIAM J. GOODCHILD whose telephone number is

(571)270-1589. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday / 8:00 AM -

4:00 PM EST.

      If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Glenton Burgess can be reached on (571) 272-3949. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-

273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

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Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Patrice Winder/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2445

WJG
02/23/2009